



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 18, 2000

H.R. 2957 **Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Act of 2000**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
on April 11, 2000*

SUMMARY

H.R. 2957 would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2005 for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish a Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program. This new program would coordinate federal, state, and local efforts to restore the basin. The bill also would authorize a one-time appropriation of \$100 million for an inflow and infiltration project sponsored by the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board and Jefferson Parish. CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would cost \$108 million over the next five years, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts.

The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 2957 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

For purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that the amounts authorized will be appropriated for each fiscal year and that outlays will occur at rates similar to those for other EPA activities associated with water restoration projects. The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 2957 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and the environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Estimated Authorization Level	105	5	5	5	5
Estimated Outlays	5	16	33	34	20

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 2957 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Implementing the bill would benefit jurisdictions in Louisiana and Mississippi within the Lake Pontchartrain Basin if the Congress appropriates funds for restoration projects and related scientific and public education projects. Any costs to these jurisdictions would be incurred voluntarily.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Susanne S. Mehlman

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Victoria Heid Hall

Impact on the Private Sector: Jean Wooster

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Robert A. Sunshine

Assistant Director for Budget Analysis